

about works:

Works/San José is your community art and performance center—a non-profit creative laboratory dedicated to providing an environment where artists, audience, and ideas interact to expand the scope of cultural and artistic experience. Founded in 1977 by local artists, Works “success is in the process” philosophy and unique range of opportunities allow artists, curators, and the community to challenge the boundaries of contemporary art. The exhibition programs at Works are unique professional development opportunities in which artists and curators are mentored by Works volunteers through the production of their exhibitions. The intellectual content of an exhibition is solely the work of the artists and curator; and in this way, Works presents diverse and often underrepresented viewpoints and creative statements while showcasing emerging and experimental visual, new media, installation, performance, and interdisciplinary art.

As a major focal point in downtown San José’s SoFA arts district, Works finds collaborative support from, and is a key contributor to, the vitality of the arts in San José and the entire region.

Works thrives on community involvement and has an outreach program that favors exhibitions that cross boundaries to bring about dialogues between diverse populations. Works provides programs for artists at every level of career development through monthly workshops, lectures, an artist critique group, and free art experiences for young people and their families.

At Works/San José, volunteers and members maintain operational and programming capacity, keeping the organization responsive to the needs of its membership and community. Works is operated by a working volunteer Board of Directors, an Advisory Board, volunteers at large, and part-time staff.

Works/San José is primarily supported by members and individual donors, and seeks funding from community to state and national partners and grantors. Works currently receives small grant support from the City of San José.

mission statement

Works/San José believes that thriving communities support artistic experimentation. Therefore, Works serves as the South Bay community’s creative laboratory where people can experiment, exhibit, and engage with art and with each other. Works achieves this mission by providing an accessible, supportive, and welcoming art center.

works/san José

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workssanjose.org

exhibition programs

guest curator/main gallery exhibitions

This program is responsible for Works’ major exhibitions, and allows Works to present broad and diverse viewpoints and expressions. Exhibitions are presented in conceptual frameworks that address aspects of our world to pushing the boundaries of art making itself. Applications to this program must have a minimum of three exhibiting artists, and participants are required to provide an outreach activity relating to their exhibitions.

other programs and opportunities

performance art and new music events

Since its inception, Works has been the South Bay’s premier performance art venue, presenting an eclectic array of artists. Music events focus on non-traditional and experimental sound performances and interactive environments. Works also collaborates with small theater companies to present new work by emerging local playwrights, directors, and actors.

artist development

Professional development and educational opportunities, include workshops on curating exhibitions, writing artist’s statements, art and business practices, as well as lectures by artists, arts administrators, public art coordinators and others. Works also hosts a supportive monthly artists’ critique group.

kidworks

the new kidworks summer program offers children ages 7 to 14 and their families “no mistakes” art workshops that support creative problem solving in the visual arts and beyond, fostering an appreciation for and understanding of the creative process. These creative opportunities are provided free at Works.